United Nations A/62/L.17

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 49
Culture of peace

Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Philippines and Suriname: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolutions 56/6 of 9 November 2001, on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 of 19 December 2003, on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 of 11 November 2004, on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 59/199 of 20 December 2004, on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, and 60/167 of 16 December 2005 on human rights and cultural diversity,

Taking into account its resolution 61/221 of 20 December 2006, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and reaffirming the principles contained therein,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Taking into account of the draft resolution contained in document 34C/82, the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-fourth session, held in Paris from 16 October to 3 November 2007, recommending the proclamation of 2010 by the General Assembly as the international year for the rapprochement of cultures,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Welcoming the valuable contribution of various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels to enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are all mutually inclusive, reinforcing and interrelated,

Taking note of the statements and recommendations made during the high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, held on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the proposal to establish a consultative council of religions under the aegis of the United Nations with the aim of encouraging interreligious dialogue for peace,

Affirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders in the interreligious, intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace,

1. *Affirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the global, regional and subregional levels and its flagship project on the promotion of interfaith dialogue;

3. *Welcomes* the designation, in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General[2] of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the focal unit in the Secretariat on interreligious, intercultural and inter-civilizational matters, in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

4. *Encourages* Governments to consider the proposals contained in the statements made during the high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, particularly initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation at the grass-roots level;

5. *Encourages* the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

[2] A/62/337.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the various recommendations made during the high-level dialogue, including the establishment of a consultative council of religions to serve as a forum for interreligious dialogue for peace, and to submit proposals on the modalities for the possible council, and in this regard, calls upon States, relevant international organizations and civil society organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on this subject;

7. *Decides* to hold an annual high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of peace, tolerance, understanding, universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief, cultural diversity, development and human dignity, and requests the President of the General Assembly to convene interactive hearings with civil society to engage all stakeholders in the process;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit during the current session a framework plan of activities for 2010, to be declared by the General Assembly as the International Year of Dialogue among Religions and Rapprochement of Cultures;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 18
Question of Palestine

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe and Palestine: draft resolution

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted by the General Assembly at its emergency special sessions and resolution 61/22 of 1 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Recalling also the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[2] endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling further the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/62/35).

[2] S/2003/529, annex.

[3] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

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Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[4] and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report,[1] including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the Middle East peace process and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session and thereafter;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

6. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee in the performance of its tasks;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

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[4] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.